

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

BY JULIET PENNINGTON | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Thrill seekers heading to Florida this summer will have two new exhilarating roller coasters to check out: Mako at SeaWorld Orlando and Cobra's Curse at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

Touted as Orlando's tallest, fastest, and longest roller coaster, Mako, named for a shark known for its swiftness and agility, reaches speeds of 73 miles per hour and feature a 200-foot drop.

Built by roller coaster masters Bollinger & Mabilard of Switzerland, the steel-track ride is nearly a mile long and, according to SeaWorld, a true "hypercoaster," in that its combination of hills and speed gives riders a near weightless feel.

The area surrounding Mako, which opened June 10, has a shark and shipwreck theme, immersing those waiting in line in an underworld experience.

Minimum height requirement for Mako is 54 inches.

Cobra's Curse, which opened June 17, is a spin coaster that features as its centerpiece an 80-foot snake icon with 4-foot long fangs that is constructed of nine stackable sections with an internal steel spine and an outer shell composed of carved foam and fiberglass.

The coaster has a 70-foot vertical lift, and more than

2,100 feet of track over the park's Serengeti Plain area.

Located in the Egypt section of the park, this ride is filled with fast, exhilarating twists and turns amid a makeshift archeological excavation experience.

Riders lining up will be in an air-conditioned snake exhibit where they will see a variety of exotic snakes, in-

cluding the Angolan Python, Gaboon Viper, Jameson's Mambas, and Rhinoceros Vipers. Interactive displays and projection mapping technology tell the story of the "Snake God."

To go on Cobra's Curse, riders must be at least 48 inches tall — or 42 inches if accompanied by a parent or guardian.



HERE

VERMONT'S NEW SUMMER DINNER SERIES

Sit down to a communal dinner that celebrates Vermont products and bounty during Okemo Mountain Resort's new Farmhouse Dinner Series. The series, held at the resort's flagship restaurant the Coleman Brook Tavern, runs July 9, July 23, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, and Sept. 17. Executive chef Scot Emerson and chef Jason Tostrup work with dozens of local farmers and food producers to create the menus: They get pasture-raised, organic, antibiotic-free Berkshire hogs from Cavendish Farm, Cornish chickens from Parlemee Farm, and certified Wagyu beef from Spring-Rock Farm, for instance. The tavern has a full



HOTEL MARLOWE

bar, an impressive selection of craft beers, and a wine list that has earned the Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence for nearly a decade. Tickets: \$55 per person, reservations required. 802-228-1435, www.okemo.com/farmhouse-dinner-series.

GET WILD AT BOSTON HOTEL

Experience a family-friendly indoor wilderness package at Kimpton's Hotel Marlowe in Cambridge. The Let's Get In-Tents package includes an in-room tented double bed, four local brews for mom and dad, and juice for little campers while sitting under the stars in the hotel's courtyard, two handcrafted Sweet Lydias marshmallows or s'mores, and trail mix for setting off to the explore the urban wilderness. Each stay includes free use of

the hotel's bikes and kayaks (great for exploring on or along the Charles River). Rates start at \$457 per night for a "double double deluxe view" guestroom, and are good through Nov. 1. 617-868-8000, www.hotelmarlowe.com.

THERE

LOCALS SHARE TOP RUNNING AND BIKING SPOTS

Looking for fun routes to bike or run when you travel? Download the Strava app, sign up for the premium service, and you can access top biking and running routes in a dozen cities worldwide, including Denver, London, Amsterdam, San Francisco, Sydney, and Paris. Each city guide in the Strava Local series offers popular routes with a brief description, a map, photos, and stats such as distance, elevation gain, and worthwhile stops (coffee shops, cafes, bike stores, and so on). You can also import the route to your GPS device, including most Garmin Edge cycling computers, or your Apple or Android phone. Premium membership also gives you personal coaching, live feedback, and analysis of your performance data so you can geek out over your numbers. www.strava.com.

PHOTOGRAPH WILD ANIMALS IN AFRICA

Take off on a new luxury Big Cat Photo Safari in southern Africa with Pennsylvania-based Frontiers International Travel. Renowned photographers Barry and Cathy Beck lead this 14-day adventure to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Stay at several luxury safari camps, including Zambia's Leya Camp and Shumba Camp, and Zimbabwe's Linkwasha Camp, and end at MalaMala, the largest private big five game reserve in South Africa. Guides will explain the distinctive flora and fauna found in these areas. The trip includes a visit to the Zambian side of Victorian Falls, a sunset river cruise, guided tour of Livingstone town and museum. Rates start at \$17,895 per person, double occupancy, and the trip runs July 14-27, 2017. 800-245-1950, www.frontiers-travel.com.

EVERYWHERE

PINT-SIZE STROLLER OFFERS TOP FEATURES

No gate checking needed for Hammacher Schlemmer's latest stroller, recognized by Guinness World Records as the "world's smallest folding stroller." The super compact kid-mover goes from a small lap-sized package to sturdy full-



fledged stroller in seconds, complete with four sets of double wheels, a padded seat with a five-point harness, a compartment underneath for stashing snacks, toys, a favorite stuffed animal, or a blanket, and cushioned handles for the "driver." The 9.5-pound stroller collapses by pushing two buttons on the handles and then folding in a set of the wheels and the two handlebars, and then pushing a latch into place to keep the small bundle contained. It's one of the coolest strollers we've seen, and it doesn't sacrifice durability or quality for wow factor. \$249.95. 800-321-1484, www.hammacher.com.

SQUARE CAMERA CAPTURES COOL MOMENTS

Capture your trips and adventures with the Narrative Clip 2 HD camera. Attach this tiny camera to your shirt or shoulder bag, and the always-on device will take a snapshot at regular intervals until you turn it off (by putting it face down on a flat surface or in a dark bag, for instance) or until the battery runs out (after about 30 hours). You can also double tap the device anytime to take an extra photo, and even shoot a 10- to 30-second video. Pair the Clip 2 with your phone and use the Narrative app to change the photo interval (program it to shoot every 10 to 120 seconds), check the device's battery status and storage capacity, and view your photos. These GPS-



stamped images automatically get uploaded to Narrative's cloud service through your Wi-Fi network, or you can transfer them to your computer using a mini USB cord. The 8-megapixel wide-angle camera has 8GB of internal memory. KARI BODNARCHUK